

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the claims under consideration on the merits to clarify that the objectives of the method or system of the present invention are for accepting orders and performing sales based on inventory and specification information of the DNA chip(s). The amendments are adequately supported by the specification as originally filed, for example, see the abstract.

Claims 14 and 15 have also been amended. They belong to the same group of invention as Claims 13, 16 and 32, although the Office Action indicated that they are distinct species. In view of the allowability of Claims 13, 16 and 21 (see below), applicants respectfully submit that Claims 14 and 15 should also be examined on the merits and the amendments render them allowable as well.

Applicants hereby submit an English copy of the ISR (Item AQ of the previously filed IDS).

Applicants respectfully submit that the Abstract does not have more than 150 words. Therefore an amendment is not necessary and request the withdrawal of its objection.

The Office Action rejected claims 13, 16 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Pat. No. 6,456,942 (Anderson). Applicants respectfully disagree. The method and system disclosed in Anderson are for controlling manufacturing specification of DNA probes, some of which may be immobilized on a chip. In contrast, the present invention relates to a method of doing business, wherein a decision system for specifying the probe and chip specification is combined with an inventory control system monitoring and controlling material and charge stock as well as with a decision system for accounting and delivery control. The presently claimed method and system, therefore, is vastly different from that which is disclosed in Anderson. To emphasize and make clear these differences, applicants have amended the claims, reciting that the method and the system of

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the present invention are based on inventory and specification of the DNA chip being ordered and to be manufactured.

In view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that the Claims 13, 16 and 21 are in condition for allowance.

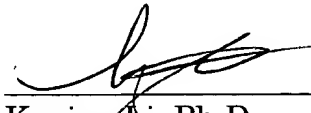
The Office Action withdrew from consideration Claims 14 and 15. In view of the allowability of Claim 13, applicants respectfully request that Claims 14 and 15 also be examined on the merits. Applicants further respectfully submit that in view of their amendments, they are also in condition for allowance.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (CAM #056207.50668US).

Respectfully submitted,

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JFM:KL:tlm (056207.50668US; 344365)

EXHIBIT I

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP01/00683

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
Int.Cl⁷ G06F17/60, G01N33/53

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols).
Int.Cl⁷ G06F17/60, G01N33/53

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2001
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2001 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2001

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
JICST FILE (TERMS: DNA CHIP, ORDER, SALE) (in Japanese)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	Nikkei Internet Technology, No.30, 22 December, 1999, Nikkei BP K.K., p.10	1-12
Y	JP, 2000-99577, A (DEL USA LP), 07 April, 2000 (07.04.00) & US, 6167383, A & DE, 19940209, A1	1-12
Y	WO, 98/15908, A1 (Citizen Watch Co., Ltd.), 16 April, 1998 (16.04.98) & EP, 1020807, A1	1-12
Y	JP, 2000-57214, A (Hitachi, Ltd.), 25 February, 2000 (25.02.00) (Family: none)	3, 12

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
17 April, 2001 (17.04.01)

Date of mailing of the international search report
01 May, 2001 (01.05.01)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.